

TESTIMONY TO THE CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
July 18, 2001

My name is Debbie Lockyer and I live at 13800 Yankee Hill Road listed as the Penterman Farmyard, E-53 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). My family and I strongly support the planning department's recommendation to deny approval of EF-1. EF-1 would be less than 400 feet from our fence and would have a tremendous visual and noise impact on our property. Our farm was built in the early 1900's and is designated as representative of a turn-of-the-century farmstead. My grandparents bought the farm in 1950 and my brothers, sisters and I spent most of our Summers growing up there learning about livestock, farming, and appreciation for the land and our heritage. My husband and I and 2 children moved to the farm 21 years ago to raise our children and help care for my grandparents so they could continue to live on the farm. My grandfather died in his bed on the farm he loved at 99 ½ years old. But I don't speak today only on behalf of my family and the desire we have to preserve our heritage, but also on behalf of several hundred children and adults who over the years have been able to come out to our farm and enjoy and learn about our rural roots in an area that up to now has remained very much the way it was over 75 years ago. We have hosted elementary classes from Lincoln schools including special education students, international students attending the University of Nebraska from countries such as China, Korea, and Malaysia who have never been around horses or an American farmstead, and church groups, plus dozens of families from Lincoln who want to enjoy the natural beauty of a unique area outside the city. The comments we receive over and over from all these visitors are "you just can't find places like this anymore" and "it's so peaceful out here!" We take visitors on horseback rides through the fields and down the gravel roads to enjoy the rural atmosphere. You see, the value of this area is not just all the historic buildings, but it is also in the setting in which all these buildings are located. Compromise the original integrity of the land surrounding our farms and you greatly devalue their historic significance. There is as much value in preserving and protecting some areas in their natural beauty for future generations to enjoy and experience as there is in selecting other areas for planned development.

I invite all of you from this commission to come out to our farm and view the area from the back of a horse and experience the wildlife, sounds, and smells.; and I believe you might understand what I'm trying to convey today. Some areas have great value just as they are and are worthy to be protected from beltways, development, and manicured bike paths; and the Stevens Creek area is such a place. Once it is destroyed or altered by a project such as the beltway, it can never be restored or reclaimed and all of us, as well as future generations will be the losers. I urge you again to vote for denial of EF-1.

Respectfully Submitted

debbie lockyer
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